

O'Neill's station. "He's worked in the business for a long time, so I'm sure he's seen it all. He's just a very nice guy. And he's very helpful, especially for older folks."

"You feel like you're being greeted, rather than just being moved into the line by a security person," said Deedee O'Brien of Shelburne, en route to Los Angeles on the Chicago flight. "I think he was here when we traveled six months ago. He's such a nice person."

O'Neill's performance should be catching the attention of all those marketing gurus out there trying to sell the quintessential New England hometown atmosphere. At 6:30 a.m., as passengers went through O'Neill's station, the mood of some travelers changed from tense to relaxed.

"He provides the best service I've ever had," said Dan Grant, of Seattle, a weekly business traveler. "If you fly a lot and go through the larger airports, you can get kind of beaten down. You're lucky if you can get a word out of people in his job."

He is in command at his post. "You can put that ID away; you won't need it anymore today and your boarding pass to Philly is right here," O'Neill quietly and calmly told one of the people in the steady stream of departing passengers. "I thank you, and you have a good day."

"He takes the hassle out of what travel has become," said Andy Tomlinson of South Burlington, on her way "to go home and do the Santa thing" with family in California. "He's great."

A United Airlines employee for 32 years, O'Neill retired in 1998 and returned to work in March for extra income. He is employed by PrimeFlight Aviation of Nashville, Tenn. The company has 4,000 employees in 50 airports in the United States providing a variety of services. In Burlington, United Airlines and US Airways contract with PrimeFlight to provide five document checkers.

O'Neill also has the task of informing passengers when they have been randomly selected by the airlines for an additional search, and must proceed to the line to their right, rather than left. "People can resent it, especially if they're in a hurry," O'Neill said.

"I tell them, I fly free because I have a golden pass, and every time I fly the computer randomly selects me because it reads my ticket as cash, one-way and automatically makes me a selectee. I tell them their special search is no different than mine and it often makes them feel better."

"He is just fantastic," said Thane Butt, of Shelburne, flying to Chicago with her husband, Peter. Butt jokingly asked the bushy-eyed O'Neill if he was Andy Rooney.

"I've been asked that a few times," said the unflappable O'Neill.

"He makes you feel like you're not just another person," said Dr. Alan Segal of South Burlington. "And he's got one of those faces; he looks like everyone's grandfather."●

#### PILOT KNOB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EAGAN, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Pilot Knob Elementary School in Eagan, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Pilot Knob Elementary School, which serves a diverse population of 375 children in kindergarten through grade four, is truly a model of educational success. The school boasts a 96 percent

attendance rate; test scores are well above average for most students; and many of the teachers are leaders in their fields. Pilot Knob Elementary has also devised an innovative approach to address bullying in school. Through its "Take Time To Be Kind" program, nine fourth graders donate their recess time to spread goodwill in the hallways, creating a safe and kind learning environment for all students.

In addition to its students, Pilot Knob Elementary is also committed to its community. Recently, students raised \$1,700 for UNICEF, to help victims of the tsunami in South Asia, and a similarly successful fundraising effort benefited a local shelter for homeless families. The school regularly opens its doors to the citizens of Eagan, welcoming not only staff and students but also parents, siblings, and neighbors to special school activities. Pilot Knob hosts a wide range of community events: from musical concerts to art and book fairs, to science experiment demonstrations, to ice cream socials.

Much of the credit for Pilot Knob's success belongs to its principal, Byron Schwab, who was Minnesota's Principal of the Year in 2001. Principal Schwab and the dedicated faculty at Pilot Knob Elementary understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also create a nurturing environment, where students learn the importance of respecting one another and the value of their community. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Pilot Knob Elementary should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Pilot Knob Elementary School in Eagan for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

#### AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION PRESENTED TO EDINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS, EDINA, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I wish to also honor the Edina Public School District, serving Edina, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional achievements in educating children.

The Edina Public School District is committed to instilling in its students not only knowledge, but also a sense of self-worth, creativity, and strong ethical values. To achieve these goals, Edina Public Schools offer a wide array of educational opportunities tailored to the diverse needs of its students. Students with limited English proficiency benefit from an exceptionally fine English as a Second Language program; more advanced learners are given new challenges through the district's Gifted Education Program; and students with special needs receive additional help through an outstanding Special Education program.

Edina Public Schools also challenge students outside of the classroom. The

district's top-notch athletic programs and team sports help students learn the value of both cooperation and competition. Student musicians, actors, and artists benefit from highly acclaimed musical, theatrical, and artistic cocurricular programs. Over 90 percent of Edina Public Schools' student body participate in cocurricular activities.

The Edina Public School District recognizes that it must constantly adapt and improve its curricula to meet the ever-changing needs of its students. The district's superintendent, Dr. Kenneth Dragseth, and the dedicated faculty are always willing to incorporate new techniques and approaches to teaching. As a result, 95 percent of Edina High School's graduates who attend college report being well prepared for their college experience.

All of the faculty, staff, and students at Edina Public Schools should be very proud of their accomplishments. I congratulate the Edina Public School District for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

#### COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER OF AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I further wish to honor the Community Learning Center in Austin, MN, which has earned an Award for Excellence in Education, for its outstanding commitment to lifelong learning. The Community Learning Center provides educational opportunities for students of all ages and skill levels—from infants to senior citizens.

The Community Learning Center offers programs tailored to every type of learner, including, early childhood family education for parents and their young children; early childhood special education for students with special needs; adult basic education and family literacy for adults with limited reading and English skills; and community education, which offers ongoing education for all community members.

The Community Learning Center is committed not only to lifelong learning but also to the empowerment and better quality of life that education makes possible. The center's learning programs help students to break the cycle of poverty, imparting skills that expand their opportunities for employment and that illuminate the value of education for children. The center is a model of quality education and community outreach and has enriched the lives of thousands of students. All of the center's faculty, staff, and students should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate the Community Learning Center in Austin for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●